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THE DOCTOR,

A Medical and Philosophical Penny Magazine.

"A WISE PHYSICIAN, SKILL'D OUR WOUNDS TO HEAL,
IS MORE THAN ARMIES TO THE PUBLIC WEAL."—*Pope's Homer.*

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RUTA GRAVEOLENS. COMMON RUE.

CLASS, DECANDRIA. ORDER, MONOGYNIA.

THE root sends forth several shrubby stalks, which towards the bottom are strong, woody, and covered with rough, gray, striated bark; the upper or young branches are smooth, and of a pale-green colour; the leaves are compound, consisting of double sets of irregular pinnæ, which are minutely notched or crenulated, of an obversely oval shape, and of a glaucous or bluish-green colour; the flowers are numerous, and produced in a branched corymbus on subdividing peduncles; the calyx commonly divides into four and sometimes into five pointed leaves; the corolla consists of four and frequently of five petals, these are hollow or boat-shaped, dentated or fringed at the edges, and of a yellow colour, the ten filaments are yellow, tapering, spreading, and generally lodged in the cavity of the petals; the antheræ are yellow and quadrangular; the style is short; the stigma is simple; and the germen is large, oval, green, rough, and marked by four longitudinal furrows; the seeds are angular, rough, and of a blackish colour. The shrub is a native of the South of Europe, and flowers in June and September.

The first account we have of the cultivation of Rue in Britain is given by Turner, who published his Herbal in 1562. It is now extremely common in our gardens, where it retains its verdure the whole year. Rue has a strong ungrateful smell, and a bitter, hot, penetrating taste; the leaves are so acrid, that by much handling they are said to irritate and inflame the skin; and the plant, in its natural or uncultivated state, is reported to possess these sensible qualities still more powerfully. Both water and rectified spirit extract its virtues, but the latter more perfectly than the former.

Rue was much used by the ancients, who ascribed to it many virtues. Hippocrates commends it as a resolvent and diuretic, and attributes to it the power of resisting the action of contagion, and other kinds of poisons, and with this intention it was used by Mithridates. This imaginary quality of the ruta is now however very little credited, though so highly extolled by Boerhaave. According to Bergius it is "alexiteria, pellens, emmenagoga, sudorifira, rubefaciens." It is doubtless a powerful stimulant, and may be considered, like other medicines of the fetid kind, to have attenuating, deobstruent, and antispasmodic powers, and to be more peculiarly adapted to phlegmatic habits, or weak and hysterical constitutions, suffering from retarded or obstructed secretions. In the London Pharmacopœia, ruta is directed in the form of an extract, and it is also an ingredient in the Pulvis e Myrrha compositus. By some it is employed in the way of tea.

The opinion formerly entertained of this plant may be collected from the Schola Salernitana, in which its virtues are thus celebrated :—

Nobilis est ruta, quia lumina reddit acuta;
Auxilio rutæ, ver lippe vedibis acute,
Cruda comesta recens, oculos caligine purgat.
Ruta viris minuit Venerem, mulieribus addit,
Ruta facit castum, dat lumen, et ingerit astum,
Cocta et facit ruta de publicibus loca tuta.

NATURAL HISTORY OF ANTIMONY.

(*Continued from p.* 52.)

Experiment 4th.

Sulphurate of Antimony.—To procure sulphurate of antimony, pulverize equal parts of sulphur and antimony, put the mixture into a crucible, cover it, and expose it to a heat sufficient to make the crucible slightly red; when the matters are fused, take the crucible from the fire, suffer it to cool, and the contents will be found to be a brilliant radiated mass of a lead or slate-gray colour.

Experiment 5th.

Preparations of Hydrogenated Hydro-sulphuret of Antimony.—Into a boiling ley of pure potash dissolved in about three or four times its weight of water, throw sulphuret of antimony equal to a sixteenth of the alkali employed. Stir the mixture well, and after it has boiled a little, filter it. On cooling, this liquor will deposit an abundant precipitate, which must be washed, first with cold, and afterwards with boiling water, until it becomes insipid; when dry, pulverize it and sift it through a silk sieve. Or,

Boil ten or twelve parts of pure liquid alkali with two of sulphuret of antimony; keep the mixture in a state of ebullition for half an hour, then filter it, and on cooling a precipitate will be obtained. Digest the alkali again over more sulphuret, until it exercises no further action upon it. Wash and dry the product as before.

To these processes, we shall add that of Deyeux; and those who prepare medicines of this kind on a large scale will no doubt see the details he has communicated with pleasure.

Take carbonate of potash one part; sulphuret of antimony, pounded small, four parts; river water, filtered, eight parts.

Boil the whole in a very clean iron vessel for a quarter of an hour; then take out a small quantity of the liquor with an iron spoon, and if, as the liquor cools, it becomes turbid, and forms a reddish deposit, it contains kermes in solution. Should the contrary be the case, continue the ebullition till the above phenomena are manifested, then pour the boiling liquor on a filter of paper, placed on a piece of pretty thick cloth; the liquor will pass exceedingly clear; but as it reaches the bottom of the jar placed to receive it, it becomes turbid, and deposits an abundant precipitate.

During the filtration of the liquor, carbonate of potash and water, each equal in quantity to that first employed, are to be added to the sulphuret which remains in the iron vessel, and boiled as before. This operation is to be repeated four times, and the liquor obtained from each is to be filtered separately.

During the fourth operation, the filtered liquors of the two first will have deposited the kermes they contained. They must be carefully decanted, and the liquors boiled again with the sulphuret of antimony, which has remained in the iron vessel.

The same method must be observed with the liquors of the third and fourth operation, and so repeated until the whole of the kermes has been obtained; but as the water and alkali decrease as the operations are repeated, care must be taken to add from time to time a solution of carbonate of potash, observing that the quantity be not too great, otherwise the kermes will remain in solution in the liquor, and not be deposited on cooling.

Care must also be taken to renew the paper filters frequently, as their pores speedily become closed. Each time they are changed, the matter deposited upon them must be returned into the boiler.

The kermes deposited in the jars during each operation must be put into a separate vessel, and suffered to remain there till the requisite quantity is obtained; it must then be freed from the alkali with which it is still moistened, and dried.

For this purpose, after having carefully decanted the supernatant fluid, wash the precipitate in a large quantity of river-water, which should be filtered and as cold as possible; suffer it to settle, and decant it; and repeat the washing until the decanted liquor has no alkaline taste.

The precipitate collected at the bottom of the last water must be thrown on several paper filters, placed either in flannels or over pieces of cloth, in such a manner that the matter on each filter may be about two inches in thickness. As the moisture drains off, the kermes shrink, crack, and acquire a consistence. A small quantity of it must be taken from time to time to examine what state it is in, and when, by touching it with a spatula, it begins to divide itself without daubing, put it between two leaves of paper, and having wrapped it in a linen cloth, put it under a press, and then suffer it to dry in a very moderate temperature.

Remark.

This process is indeed longer and more tedious than the former, but it yields a product of a beautiful colour, and whose medicinal effects never vary.

A product of the same nature is that formerly called sulphur of antimony, but now hydrogenated sulphurated oxid of antimony.

ENTERITIS, OR INFLAMMATION OF THE INTESTINES.

This as well as gastritis is of two species, viz. the phlegmonous and erysipelatous; the latter of which, arising only in consequence of some other disease, is not here to be noticed.

Pungent pain in the abdomen, spreading and acute round the navel, nausea, vomiting, obstinate costiveness, and fever, are the characteristics of enteritis.

The only disease with which enteritis can be confounded is colic: but from this it may readily be distinguished, as the former is accompanied by fever, and a quick and hard small pulse, and the pain is increased on pressure, which does not occur in colic, and this is a circumstance well worthy of remembrance, for colic is a spasmodic affection, and the patient finds the greatest relief in doubling himself up, and pressing the knees towards the abdomen; while in inflammation of the intestines the position of the patient is generally that of being stretched out, and dreads even the thought of the bed-clothes resting upon the abdomen.

The causes of enteritis are, indurated feces, acrid bile, long-continued and obstinate costiveness, spasmodic colic, intus-susceptio, and a strangulation of any part of the intestinal tube; but another very general cause is atmospherical vicissitude, or the application of cold to some part of the skin during or subsequent to a state of perspiration. It is also occasioned by cold drink of any kind taken when the body is heated, in the same way as inflammation of the stomach is apt to arise therefrom.

Enteritis comes on with an acute pain, extending in general over the whole of the abdomen, but more especially round the navel, which is greatly aggravated on pressure; accompanied with eructations, sickness at the stomach, a vomiting of bilious matter, obstinate costiveness, thirst, heat, great anxiety, and a quick and hard small pulse. After a short time the pain becomes more severe, the bowels are affected with slight spasms, the whole region of the abdomen is highly painful to the touch, and seems drawn together in lumpy contractions; invincible costiveness prevails, and the urine is voided with great difficulty and pain

The inflammation continuing to proceed with violence, terminates at last in ulceration, scirrhus, or gangrene, or it goes off by resolution.

Enteritis is always attended with considerable danger, as it often terminates in gangrene in the space of a few hours from its commencement; this event is marked by a sudden remission of pain, sinking and irregularity of the pulse, shrinking of the features, cold sweats, fainting, suppression of urine, hiccup, and distention of the belly, which sounds on being struck with the finger: and it frequently proves fatal, likewise, during the inflammatory stage. If the pains abate gradually, if natural stools be passed, if a universal perspiration attended with an equal pulse, comes on, or if a copious discharge of loaded urine with the same kind of pulse takes place, a resolution and favourable termination may be expected.

Its termination in ulceration, which is not common, can only be known by the febrile symptoms remitting; by occasional pains and rigours; and by pus being mixed with the evacuations from the bowels.

Dissections of this disease show that the inflammation pervades the intestinal tube to a very considerable extent: that adhesions of the diseased portion to contiguous parts are often formed, and that in some cases, the intestines are in a gangrenous state, or that ulcerations have formed. They likewise show, that besides obstinate obstructions, intus-susceptio, constrictions, and twistings, are often to be met with; and that in most cases the peritoneum is more or less affected, and is perceived at times to be covered with a layer of coagulable lymph. The mesentery and omentum are also much inflamed.

The cure of enteritis must be on the same general plan as in other cases of inflammation, being directed to lessen the impetus of the blood, and remove the obstruction from the intestines.

On the first coming on of the disease, it will be necessary to have recourse to copious bleeding, which may be repeated according to the severity and violence of the symptoms, and the age and strength of the patient. Blood should be drawn from the arm in a full stream, by means of a sufficient orifice, as quickly after the pain is felt in the bowels as possible, regardless of the *apparent* debility in the pulse and patient; and it is perhaps of more importance in this than in any other inflammation, that the great object of venesection should be obtained by the first bleeding; for if the inflammation is not quickly subdued, mortification rapidly advances. If the object in view should not be obtained by one copious bleeding, (say to the extent of twenty ounces, if the patient is an adult,) the operation must be repeated within four or five hours again, and to such an extent as the circumstances of the case require, and that the action of the heart will bear. A third bleeding will be advisable the same or on the succeeding day, should the pain in the abdomen, and other characteristic symptoms of inflammation, remain unsubdued.

The Editor of this Magazine has recently had a case of acute enteritis, when he, on the first bleeding, drew near thirty ounces of blood, six hours afterwards twenty ounces, and at the same interval twenty ounces more. After a lapse of about eight hours, the inflammatory action still continuing, he paused before he would bring his mind to abstract more blood (seventy ounces within a day), but knowing that the disease was destroying his patient if not put a stop to, he risked the alternative of whether he should die from the disease, or loss of blood, and in the adoption of the latter plan, some hopes were held out for his recovery; the latter course he pursued, and drew off twenty ounces more, which stopped the progress of the disease, and he recovered.

(To be continued.)

VEGETABLE POISONS.

The vegetable poisons are very numerous, and consist of two classes; the narcotic or stupifying, and the irritant or stimulant. Opium, hyoscyamus, belladonna, digitalis, hemlock, stramonium, aconitum, laurel, cassava-

root in its rude state, and several fungi, particularly the small agaric (denominated by the French, Champignon, and somewhat resembling mushrooms), belong to the first class; whereas, colchicum autumnale, hellebore, savin, and coculus indicus, come under the latter class. Those of the first occasionally vomiting, purging, and convulsions; those of the latter class produce pain, inflammation, and erosion.

Many of the former, and particularly the champignons, are often taken through mistake, and prove poisonous. The same happens frequently in the West Indies from using the cassava-root in its crude or unprepared state. In this state it proves a deadly poison; but by having its acrimonious juice carefully expressed, and being afterwards baked into thin cakes, it becomes a wholesome and nutritive kind of bread, much used in most of the islands, as also in Africa. Such is the wonderful effect produced by fire over this plant.

The following are the indications by which the mushroom tribe that are of a suspected nature may be distinguished. All those may be regarded as suspicious, and of a dangerous quality, which grow in marshy, shaded, places, as thick forests, where the sun has no access; their substance is softer, more open, more porous, and moister, than edible mushrooms. They have, besides, a more disagreeable appearance, and a more or less humid and dirty-looking surface. Those also which are dusky, and change colour when cut, or which exhale a strong unpleasant odour, or have a gaudy colour, or many very distinct hues, particularly if they have been originally covered by an envelope and are found in shady places, ought not to be eaten. Those which have short bulbous stalks, or fragments of skin adhering to their surface, or which grow rapidly and corrupt very quickly, should also be rejected. It has generally been supposed that fungi lose their deleterious properties by being dried; but this is a rule to which there are many exceptions, and which ought therefore to be very cautiously admitted.

The symptoms occasioned by all poisonous substances of the vegetable class are, giddiness, confusion of sight, wildness of the eyes, palpitations, loss of memory and voice, stupor, nausea, vomiting, great distention of the stomach, universal twitchings and convulsions.

The bodies of those who have been destroyed by vegetable poisons generally swell prodigiously, soon become offensive, and covered with livid gangrenous spots. On opening the body, the viscera are usually found in a sound state, but the veins are full and distended, the blood remarkably fluid, and the arteries empty. When nightshade has occasioned death, the intestines are generally inflated and inflamed, or corroded and gangrenous.

In accidents from vegetable poisons, we must attempt the immediate evacuation of the offending matter from the stomach; and where the opium in a state of solution (as in the tinctura opii) has been swallowed in any quantity, either through mistake or with the view of destroying life, its removal will be best effected by employing Mr. Reid's valuable apparatus, or stomach-pump, taking care to wash out the stomach well after the poison has been evacuated, by injecting two or three syringefuls of tepid water; if not at hand or promptly to be procured, the stomach must be evacuated of its deleterious contents by an active emetic, and the most proper one will be a strong solution of the sulphate of zinc with tartarized antimony, as advised under the head of mineral poisons; and this may be followed by large portions of an infusion of mustard, together with frequent irritations of the fauces by a feather, with a view of exciting the full action of the stomach to throw up the poison. Where the patient is in a state of complete insensibility and incapable of swallowing, the emetic solution may be injected into the stomach by means of an elastic gum catheter introduced into the œsophagus from the right nostril. It is, however, only quickly after opium or any other powerful narcotic has been swallowed that an emetic can be given with advantage, as the patient's efforts in vomiting might increase the dangerous determination of blood to the head.

In some cases of poison by opium, or such other powerful sedatives, occasioning great torpor in the stomach, so as to resist the effects of even strong emetics introduced into that organ, a scruple or half a dram of tartarized antimony dissolved in a little water, and thrown up the intestines in the form of a clyster, has excited vomiting, and at the same time freely evacuated the entire alimentary tube. In very obstinate constipations, eight or ten grains of the medicine administered in this way will commonly be found sufficient to effect the desired purpose.

(To be continued.)

MEMOIRS OF THE MOST DISTINGUISHED MEDICAL MEN.

(Continued from p. 44.)

Hugh Chamberlen.

This celebrated accoucheur, a native of London, was born about the year 1664; and, after having received a professional education, became an eminent professor of the obstetric art, in the metropolis. His father, his brothers, and himself, having, after much experience, "by God's blessing, and their own industry," as he states, made some important improvement in that branch of the profession which he had adopted, he went to Paris, as it is supposed, for the purpose of selling it in that capital; where, however, as his antagonist Mauriceau had predicted, he failed in performing a difficult operation; and soon afterwards proceeded to Holland. At Amsterdam, as it is stated, he disposed of the secret of the improvement made by himself and his family, for a large sum of money, to Ruysh and Roonhuysen, medical men of high reputation in that city.

Returning to England, he rapidly made a large fortune, not so much, if Mauriceau may be credited, from his obstetric invention, as from his having attentively studied that author's Observations sur la Grossesse; which Chamberlen translated and published, but it does not appear at what precise period. The translation seems, however, to have been sought after by the medical practitioners of this country with great avidity; a second edition of it appeared in 1716, a third in 1727, and a fourth many years after Chamberlen's decease.

In 1688, he attended Mary of Modena, the second wife of James the Second, at the birth of her son, the unfortunate Pretender: of which event he subsequently addressed a full statement to the Princess Sophia of Hanover, mother of George the First, for the purpose of contradicting the assertion "that the queen's pregnancy had been feigned." In 1690, he took the degree of M.D. at the University of Cambridge; and during the confinement of Dr. Friend in the Tower, on suspicion of having

been implicated in some of the proceedings for which Bishop Atterbury was impeached, he attended many of that physician's patients; among whom was the prelate just mentioned, who wrote an inscription for the monument erected in Westminster Abbey, to Chamberlen's memory, shortly after his decease, which took place at his house, in Covent Garden, on the 17th of June, 1728.

In addition to his translation of the Observations sur la Grossesse, of Mauriceau, "who," says Chalmers, "mentions him often, in some of his works, but always with the littleness of jealousy," he was the author of three tracts respecting the Bank of England; and of a Latin poem, published in the Hymenæus Cantabrigiensis, on the Marriage of Prince George of Denmark with the Princess Anne.

In his epitaph, he is described as having been a man of skill, liberality, and benevolence; and Haller, with other eminent medical writers, properly accord him great praise for his celebrated improvement in the obstetric art: which, from motives of mere interest, he cautiously concealed, when, by his own admission, several lives were lost, through ignorance, on the part of his fellow-practitioners, of the discovery he had made. It is proper to add, that his claims to the merit of the invention have been disputed. Some authors pretend that he took the idea of his improvement from the Arabs, whose practice, however, appears to bear no affinity to that which he is said to have introduced. Others ascribe the honour of originating the mode in question to an accoucheur named Ruff, and, according to Johnson, prior to its being established by Chamberlen, it had been partially brought forward by Drinkwater, a surgeon at Brentford.

He was thrice married: but it does not appear that he left any issue.

EARLY STRUGGLES.

[*From the Diary of a late Physician.*]

* * * CAN anything be conceived more dreary and disheartening, than the prospect before a young London physician, who, without friends or fortune, yet with high aspirations after professional eminence, is striving to weave around him what is technically called "a connexion?" Such was my case. After having exhausted the slender finances allotted me from the funds of a poor but somewhat ambitious family, in passing through the usual routine of a college and medical education, I found myself, about my twenty-sixth year, in London,—possessed of about 100*l.* in cash, a few books, a tolerable wardrobe, an inexhaustible fund of animal spirits, and a wife,—a lovely young creature whom I had been absurd enough some weeks before to marry, merely because we loved each other. She was the only daughter of a very worthy fellow-townsman of mine, a widower; whose fortunes, alas! had decayed long before their possessor. Emily was the glory of his age, and, need I add, the pride of my youth; and after having assiduously attended her father through his last illness, the sole and rich return was his daughter's heart.

I must own, that, when we found ourselves fairly housed in the mighty metropolis, with so poor an exchequer, and the means of replenishing it so remote and contingent, we were somewhat startled at the boldness of the step we had taken. "Nothing venture, nothing have," however, was my maxim; and I felt supported by that unaccountable conviction which clings to all in such circumstances as mine, up to the very pinching moment, but no longer, that there *must* be thousands of ways of getting a livelihood, to which one can turn at a moment's warning. And then the swelling thought of being the architect of one's own fortune! As, however, daily drafts began to diminish my 100*l.*, my spirits faltered a little. I discovered that I might indeed as well

Lie pack'd in my own grave,

as continue in London without money, or the means of getting it; and after revolving endless schemes, the only conceivable mode of doing so seemed calling in the *generous* assistance of the Jews. My father had fortunately effected a policy on my life for 5000*l.*, at an early period, on which some fourteen premiums had been paid; and this available security, added to the powerful influence of a young nobleman to whom I had rendered some service at college, enabled me to succeed in wringing a loan from old Amos L—— of 3000*l.*, at the trifling interest of fifteen per cent., payable by way of redeemable annuity. It was with fear and trembling that I called myself master of this large sum, and with the utmost diffidence that I could bring myself to exercise what the lawyers would call *acts of ownership* on it. As, however, there was no time to lose, I took a respectable house in C—— Street West,—furnished it neatly and respectably—fortunately enough let the first floor to a rich old East India bachelor—beheld "Dr. ——" glisten conspicuously on my door—and then dropped my little line into the great water of London, resolved to abide the issue with patience.

Blessed with buoyant and sanguine spirits, I did not lay it much to heart, that my only occupation during the first six months, was—abroad, to practise the pardonable solecism of hurrying *haud passibus æquis* through the streets, as if in attendance on numerous patients; and at home, to ponder pleasantly over my books, and enjoy the company of my cheerful and affectionate wife. But when I had numbered twelve months, almost without feeling a pulse or receiving a fee, and was reminded by old L—— that the second half-yearly instalment of 225*l.* was due, I began to look forward with some apprehension to the overcast future. Of the 3000*l.*, for the use of which I was paying so cruel and exorbitant a premium, little more than half remained—and this, notwithstanding we had practised the most rigid economy in our household expenditure, and devoted as little to dress as was compatible with maintaining a respectable exterior. To my sorrow, I found myself unavoidably contracting debts, which, with the interest due to old L——, I found it would be impossible to discharge. If matters went on as they seemed to threaten, what was to become of me in a year or two? Putting every thing else out of the question, where was I to find funds to meet old L——'s annual demand of 450*l.*? Relying on my prospects of professional success, I had bound myself to return the 3000*l.* within five years of the time of borrowing it; and now I thought I must have been mad to do so. If my profession failed me, I had nothing else to look to. I had no family resources—for my father had died since I came to London, very much embarrassed in his circumstances; and my mother, who was aged and infirm, had gone to reside with some relatives, who were few and poor. My wife, as I have stated, was in like plight. I do not

think she had a relative in England (for her father and all his family were Germans), except

—— him, whose brightest joy.
Was, that he called her—wife.

Lord ——, the nobleman before mentioned, who I am sure would have rejoiced in assisting me, either by pecuniary advances or professional introductions, had been on the continent ever since I commenced practice. Being of studious habits, and a very bashful and reserved disposition while at Cambridge, I could number but few college friends, none of whom I knew where to find in London. Neither my wife nor I knew more than five people, besides our Indian lodger; for, to tell the truth, we were, like many a fond and foolish couple before us, all the world to one another, and cared little for scraping together promiscuous acquaintance. If we had even been inclined to visiting, our straitened means would have forbid our incurring the expenses attached to it. What then was to be done? My wife would say, "Poh, love, we shall contrive to get on as well as our neighbours;" but the simple fact was, we were not getting on like our neighbours, nor did I see any prospect of our ever doing so. I began, therefore, to pass sleepless nights and days of despondency, casting about in every direction for any employment consistent with my profession, and redoubling my fruitless efforts to obtain practice.

It is almost laughable to say, that our only receipts were a few paltry guineas, sent at long intervals from old Mr. Asperne, the proprietor of the European Magazine, as remuneration for a sort of monthly medical summary with which I furnished him, and a trifle or two from Mr. Nicholls of the Gentleman's Magazine, as an acknowledgment for several sweet sonnets sent by my wife.

(*To be continued.*)

INSTANCE IN WHICH LIFE WAS SUPPORTED FOR A LENGTH OF TIME BY THE ABSORPTION OF THE FLUIDS OF THE BODY.

A VERY curious instance of life being supported by the absorption of the fluids of the body is related by Mr. Granger, in his *Elements on General Anatomy*, as having occurred some years since at Dover. "A hog weighing one hundred and sixty pounds was buried under a portion of the cliff, which fell on its sty, for the long space of one hundred and sixty days. At the end of this time, being dug out, it weighed only forty pounds, and was extremely emaciated, clean, and white. As there was neither food nor water in the sty when the cliff fell, this hog must have existed during the time mentioned by the removal of the adipose and other fluids from their containing structures into the circulating system."

CURE FOR INSANITY.

INSANITY is one of the tendencies that mental culture, upon a phrenological basis, would be likely to keep under. Almost all madmen possess the organ of self-esteem in a very conspicuous measure. Let men look well to this. Let the proud be careful to cultivate opposite qualities; let them be placed in circumstances calculated to lower high notions; let them habitually compare themselves with other men whose talents are much superior, but whose self-approbation is much inferior, and we promise such comparers that their own self-esteem shall be gradually brought down nearer to the lever in which it ought to be; and if they have the fear of madhouses before their eyes, this lowering of their organization shall go the greatest way that any preventive power can go in preventing their apprehensions from being realized. Madness the increase of mental power! it is no such thing! It is the drawing off of power from other faculties, and the placing too much upon that which had before got more than was sufficient.

LOSS OF SENSATION IN ONE-HALF OF THE BODY WITHOUT LOSS OF THE POWER OF MOTION.

NOTWITHSTANDING the numerous researches of modern physiologists, and the ingenious experiments they have instituted to elucidate the mechanism of the functions of the nervous system, we are still ignorant what portions of the brain are the exclusive seat of sensibility, and what determine the movements, though observations similar to the one we are about to notice show that these faculties are entirely isolated. The following interesting case, related by Dr. Le Sauvage, of Caen, in the *Archives Générales*, affords a very remarkable example of the possibility of the loss of sensation without the locomotive faculties suffering in the slightest degree. A man aged seventy-three, well made, habitually enjoying good health, had perceived for fifteen days some giddiness, when on the 10th of March 1828, being about fifty steps from his house, he experienced suddenly a numbness in the whole of the left lower extremity. It appeared to him that his foot sunk deeply, and he seized his thigh with both hands, as if to prevent its sinking into the ground. Almost at the same instant the numbness extended over the whole left side. Alarmed at this unusual condition, he became anxious to get home, and ran with facility that distance. The next day Dr. Le Sauvage was sent for, who found the patient in the following condition:—the intellectual faculties natural; the pulse nearly the same in both sides of the body; he could walk, move his arms, and take hold of objects without difficulty, only the elevation to which the arm could be raised by the deltoid was a little limited; but he had no consciousness of the movements he performed, nor of the bodies he touched. The skin over the whole left side was absolutely insensible; he might be pinched and pricked on this side ever so much, without his perceiving any pain, or even without his being aware of it. At the anterior part of the body, the median line was not the precise limit of the sensible parts. On the left side, the skin possessed sensation to the extent of about an inch from this line; beyond this point there was complete insensibility on this side; on the affected side, the sight and hearing were perfectly natural, but the senses of smell and taste were lost. When the left half of the tongue was wet with strong vinegar, the patient did not taste it in the least, whilst the taste of this fluid was strongly perceived by the other half of this organ. Strong odours placed under

the left nostril were not perceived, except when the patient made a strong inspiration, but then the odour passed to the right nostril through the posterior nares. When the hand was placed upon the head, the patient felt only that portion resting on the right half, &c. This affection has hitherto resisted all treatment. The constitution of the patient, however, does not appear to have suffered any injury.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Michael Thompson" is suspected to have rheumatic attacks at the season of the year alluded to—most likely the result of that disorder under which he laboured two years ago. Take the following :—℞ Vin. Sem. Colchici ℥ j. Tinct. Digitalis ʒij. Tinct. Humuli ʒvj. M. Sumat cochl. j parv. bis vel ter die in aquâ. Regulate your bowels, *The Doctor's Stomach Pills* will be found to best answer this purpose.

"An Old Man and Subscriber" should have stated whether he has been subject to rheumatic attacks, whether an accident gave rise to the enlargement, with such other particulars that a medical man should be acquainted with who is only guided in his judgment by a written description. Write again next week.

"J. Friendly" is recommended to take *The Doctor's Pro-bilious Pills*, according to direction, and two tablespoonfuls of the following mixture twice daily :—℞ Magnes. Sulph. ʒvj. Infus. Gent. Comp. ʒvjss. Acid. Sulph. Diluti ʒiss. Tinct. Cascarillæ ʒvj. M. By no means take an emetic. Wine-and-water, or weak brandy-and-water, is recommended to constitute the chief beverage. Write again.

"B. J. G." we are glad is better, continue for a week or ten days longer, then either write or call again at the Office.

"Antiphrodisiac." ℞ Tinct. Ferri Muriat. ʒij. Infus. Gent. Comp. ʒvjss. Tinct. Card. Comp. ℥j. M. Sumat cochl. ij larg. bis quotidie. As this complaint often arises from irritation in the prostate gland, a small quantity of the following ointment is recommended to be rubbed on the perineum every night, going to bed :—℞ Ung. Hyd. Fort. ʒiij. Pulv. Opii ℈j. Pulv. Camphoræ gr. v. M. Write again in a fortnight.

"Z. A." ℞ Tinct. Ferri Muriat. ʒij. Tinct. Cascarillæ ʒvj. Infus. Gent. Comp. ʒvjss. Syr. Cort. Aurant. ℥ss. M. Sumat cochl. ij larg. bis quotidie. A cure cannot be promised under two months. Write again.

"James Williams S—s" must pursue the plan recommended in the last Number, under the signature of "James Williams," being a reply to this Correspondent.

"W. Drofnav." ℞ Potass Acetat. ʒij. Mellis ℥ss. Ol. Juniperi gr. x. Spr. Æther Nitros ʒiij. Aquæ Distillati ℥vjss. Tinct. Lyttæ ʒiij. M. Sumat cochl. ij larg. bis quotidie. Two of *The Doctor's Stomach Pills* every night. Write again.

"100, 1,100," must continue the injection as last ordered and make use of a fomentation prepared by boiling four poppy-heads in a quart of water until reduced to a pint and a half, to be applied warm, thrice a day. Mr. Horsey is agent for the district of Portsea.

"W. Wilson P." must not listen to the advice of others whilst he is under our care. He is nearly well. He *has not* a stricture. Continue as before. Do not smoke. Diet generous. Write again if necessary in a fortnight.

"T. C. B., Mary-le-bone," is strongly recommended to call on the Editor at his Chambers on Friday evening next, as one interview will throw more light on his case than twenty letters can do.

"Thos. Halligan," "A King's College Student," "L. C.," and "Obdurate," shall be answered in the next Number.

"P. R." R.- Tinct.-Ferri Muriat. ʒij. Infus. Gent. Comp. ℥vjss. Tinct. Cascarillæ ʒvj. Syr. Cort. Aurant. ℥ss. M. Sumat cochl. ij larg. bis quotidie. Cold water as a local application. Write again. Fear not.

"An Imprudent Young Man" is much better. Take *three* tablespoonfuls of the mixture twice daily, in the place of two. This correspondent is recommended not to take any other medicine but what is prescribed by his present medical adviser. Write again in three weeks.

"Matthew Brown." There is no *real* "Anodyne Cement" in use; the word "Anodyne" is used to catch the unwary. An account of the Metallic Cement, which is the only efficient one, has been given in a former Number.

"Henry Jones" has not been sufficiently explicit in the statement of his head affection, &c. ℞ Liq. Ammon. Acet. ʒij. Tinct. Digitalis ʒiss. Spt. Æther. Nitros. ʒiij. Tinct. Humuli ℥ss. Aquæ Distillati ʒiij. M. Sumat cochl. ij larg. bis quotidie. And two of *The Doctor's Stomach Pills* every night. Write again.

"John Shove*," it is feared has incipient piles. The following ointment as a local application is recommended to him :—℞ Pulv. Gallæ ʒss. Ung. Cetacei ℥j. M. Bis vel ter die applicanda. And take about a teaspoonful of the Milk of Sulphur twice daily in milk or water. Write again.

"G. J. B." ℞ Pulv. Aluminis ʒiss. Zinci Sulphatis ʒss. Decoct. Querci ʒvj. M. Ft. injectio. Bis vel ter die utenda. This correspondent should see the Editor. A stricture is feared.

"Philomath." See the Editor. He never was more puzzled than he is in this case. Call on Friday or Monday next at the Editor's Chambers. The case is curable, but not at a distance from the medical adviser.

"Matrimony" is informed that his nervous system is rendered irritable from disordered digestive organs, he will however be quickly put to rights by taking two of *The Doctor's Stomach Pills* every night at bed-time, and two teaspoonfuls of *The Doctor's Balsam of Lupuline* twice daily in a wineglassful of water. He may settle in life within three months from this time if our advice be followed. Write again.

"A Mechanic, Manchester," may rest assured that if his second letter had reached the Editor it would have been replied to. Continue the Pills by all means as prescribed in No. 123, and take *The Doctor's Balsam of Lupuline* according to printed directions. This patient will recover. Write again.

"Point de Repos" is recommended to make use of the following compound :—℞ Tinct. Benzoin ℥ss. Spt. Ammon. Aromatic ʒj. Ol. Amygd. ʒiij. M. From six to ten drops to be dropt into the ears every night, and cotton wool afterwards introduced, removing the same every morning, after which have the ears syringed with warm soap-and-water. Keep your bowels open by taking two of *The Doctor's Stomach Pills* every night.

"T. B., a Saddler," is informed that it is much to be regretted that in consequence of his leaving town he could not follow our advice as given in No. 123, or by this time he would have been cured. Under present circumstances, have applied six leeches to the temples, and continue *The Doctor's Stomach Pills* and *Balsam of Lupuline*. Write again.

"E. A. S." should have consulted us before. "Monday, Oct. 20." Fie! Put it off by *all means*. But that a day may not be lost, take the following :—℞ Tinct. Ferri Muriat. ʒij. Infus. Gent. Co. ℥vjss. Tinct. Lyttæ ʒiij. Tinct. Cascarillæ ʒvj. M. Sumat cochl. iij larg. bis quotidie. *Do* call on the Editor on Friday next, when more will be explained to him.

"X., Iron-founder, Brighton," has written a sensible letter as refers to his case. Now commence with *The Doctor's Pectoral Pills*, but do not altogether leave off the *Pro-bilious Pills*, take of them, two twice a week. This patient will be made quite sound. He is welcome for the improvement.

"J. D. Z." Continue the lotion by all means, and do keep your bowels free, to effect which *The Doctor's Stomach Pills* will be found the best medicine to attain this object.

"Thos. Cooper" is informed that the major part of his complaints arise from a disordered condition of the liver; he therefore is directed to take two of *The Doctor's Pro-bilious Pills* nightly, when in the course of a week or two the *phantoms* in his imagination will be nearly subdued. It is a liver case. Keep your bowels open by taking one or two of *The Doctor's Stomach Pills* every night.

"Tymero" is recommended to use the following local application :—℞ Liq. Lyth. Acet. gutt. xxx. Aquæ Rosæ ʒvj. Vin. Opii ʒj. M. Ft. lotio. Sæpe in die applicand. Fear not. *New times, &c.*

"S. K. or R. B." ℞ Ext. Sarsaparillæ ʒiss. Hyd. Submuriat. gr. x. Ext. Jalapii ʒj. Ol. Menth. Sativæ gutt. x. Sapon. Castile ʒss. M. Divid. in pilul. xl. Sumat ij bis quotidie. Write again.

"An Unfortunate Youth" being about "to settle in life" is strongly recommended to see the Editor; call therefore in the Broadway, Ludgate-hill, on Friday next, when every attention shall be paid to his complaint. "Settle" not without this.

"Empton" need not be alarmed. He shall be put to rights. ℞ Tinct. Ferri Muriat. ʒij. Infus. Gent. Comp. ℥vjss. Tinct. Cinchon. ʒvj. M. Sumat cochl. ij larg. bis quotidie. For costiveness: Take two of *The Doctor's Stomach Pills* every night. Continue the above for a fortnight, then write again.

"Rhune" is informed that the tongue is an index to the stomach, and when furred, rest assured that the stomach is foul. Take two of *The Doctor's Stomach Pills* every night. Respecting ale, a moderate portion of this beverage will not prove hurtful; but be particular in your selection of it. Write again.

To the Editor of The Doctor.

Dear Editor,—I write to thank you for your kindness in answering the letter of "M. V. qui ecrit à vous," and I have only to say that I have followed your prescription, and am perfectly cured. I have since purchased all the Numbers of your Magazine, and I shall feel obliged to you if you will in your next Number state whether the Sulphate of Zinc would not do as well in Rose-water as in Decoction of Oak Bark. Also what can I give to a person to sober him when tipsy without its having any other effect on him?

I remain, yours most gratefully,
Friend of M. V. qui ecrit à vous.

This correspondent is welcome. Rose-water will now answer the purpose of the Decoction of Oak Bark. Give to a tipsy man any mild vegetable acid, such as lemon-juice diluted with an equal quantity of water, and if possible keep him from talking.

To the Editor of the Doctor.

Oct. 7th, 1834.

Dear Sir,—The benefit I have derived from taking a few boxes of your *Pro-bilious Pills* is truly astonishing. It may be well said, with much truth, that thousands have been snatched from the jaws of death by the timely administration of your inestimable Pills. I should tell you for many years I have been labouring under indigestion attended with a severe pain in the head and breast, with irregular action of the bowels, &c., from which disorders I am happy to say, through the blessing of God and your invaluable medicines, I have been completely restored to health. I can safely say, for years my malady had baffled the skill of the most scientific in the medical profession, some of whom could scarcely afford me any relief from my miserable sufferings, whilst others of the faculty did little else but relieve my pocket. I was first induced by frequent solicitations, much against my private wishes, to purchase a box of Morison's Pills, which I did, and am fully persuaded had I gone on taking his pills instead of yours I should long ere this have been dead. No pen or tongue can possibly describe to you the horrible sensations I endured whilst under the influence of these baneful Hygeist's Pills. I have been creditably informed since that the Morisonian poison is principally composed of the following deleterious ingredients, viz., Gamboge, Colocynth, Hemlock, Croton Oil, &c. If so, we need not be surprised at reading the recent committal of one Mr. Webb to York prison for manslaughter, which punishment ought, in justice to the public at large, to have been inflicted on the original inventors of the poison. In conclusion I hope my case will prove a salutary warning to all persons about purchasing Morison's Pills, or as it is commonly called, being duped by the Morisonian system of vegetable humbug. Please to accept my best thanks for the perfect restoration of health. I have no doubt but ere long your medicines and fame will be sure to exceed your sanguine expectations. May God of his infinite goodness preserve you in your laudable undertakings is the sincere wish of, Sir, your obedient Servant,

49, Molyneux-street, Edgeware-road. J. Crisp.

N.B. You are at perfect liberty to publish this letter in your valuable Magazine, should you deem the same worthy of insertion. Your Pills ought to be in the possession of every one that values health or life. I see by referring to Dr. Thomson's Conspectus of the Pharmacopœias that Gamboge, Colocynth, Hemlock, &c., are all classed amongst the most acrid vegetable poisons, therefore, ought such medicines to be placed in the hands of ignorant pretenders in physic?

Mr. Crisp will receive our congratulation for his recovery, and we beg to assure him, that it is a matter of doubt whether the conductors of this Magazine or himself derives the greatest extent of pleasure for the perfect restoration of his health. He will receive our thanks for the kind wishes expressed in his truly sensible and grateful letter.—Ed.

"Z., Manchester," is recommended to take *The Doctor's Pro-bilious Pills* every *alternate* night, and continue *The Doctor's Balsam of Lupuline.* He is nearly well, and is welcome for the improvement. His statement of the change in the colour of the excrementitious part of food is self-evident of the salutary effect of the Pills in question. Write again if necessary.

"The Editor's Applicant" is informed that from the many combined symptoms in the case, he is recommended to call at the Editor's Chambers on Friday next, within the hours agreeably to *notice*, when every attention will be devoted to his case.

"John Braham" we much fear is labouring under secondary symptoms; he ought therefore to see the Editor for the purpose of that being ascertained. The following is recommended to him: R Pil. Hydrarg. Ext. Sarsaparillæ ʒiss. Ext. Rhei ʒj. M. Divid. in pilul. xl, sumat ij ter quotidie. Write again or call, agreeably to inclination.

"C. S. P." ℞ Potass. Acetat. ʒij. Mellis ℥ss. Ol. Juniperi gr. x. Sp. Æther. Nitros. ʒij. Aquæ Distillati ℥v. M. Sumat cochl. ij larg. bis quotidie. Write again if necessary.

"M. Swan" is recommended to continue as last prescribed, but to use the lotion made rather warm. Write again if necessary.

"A Constant Subscriber, J. W. L.," is recommended to procure two ounces of Pyroligneus Acid, a small quantity of which apply to the warts every night and morning.

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The following inestimable Medicines have stood the test of experience for many years, and in no one instance in which they have been properly tried have they failed. Parents and Heads of Families, Captains of Ships and Travellers, ought never to be without them; as an early recourse to one or other of these Medicines, as the symptoms may indicate, has in thousands of instances prevented a lingering illness with all its attending suffering, expense, and inconvenience.

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Country Booksellers who may be desirous to become Agents for the Sale of this Work, and the Proprietory Medicines, are requested to address their letters to *The Proprietors of the Doctor*, No. 4, Broadway, Ludgate-hill, giving full directions of their respective residences, and a reference to a respectable house in town. *All* letters to be post-paid.

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